

The Flags of Sherbrooke Lake Camp

**THEIR MEANING, THEIR
STORIES AND THEIR
IMPORTANCE**



Why?

Sherbrooke Lake Camp resides in beautiful Franey Corner, Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia is on the East Coast of Canada which is part of Turtle Island (North America). Sherbrooke Lake Camp resides on Mi'kma'ki, the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw people. This means that they did not give up this land, but it was taken from them.



Why?

Nova Scotia is home to many people with a diverse background and diverse history. When campers come to Sherbrooke Lake Camp, we want to welcome them home as well. We recognize the barriers that many folks face in coming to camp, and it isn't enough just to invite them to the table. So we are setting the table, holding space and doing the hard work towards making camp more inclusive and safe.



Why?

Flags represent so much to people: their culture, their story, their history and so much more. We raised 9 new flags to tell the story of more Nova Scotian's and support folks feeling seen, included and acknowledged at camp. We recognize there will be blindspots in our work and are seeking to continuously grow through community and education.



Why?

Note: When researching these flags, we tried to find resources that reflect the communities for which the flags came from. Therefore, the resources may not be typical to what is seen in research, but come from those groups and try to better represent their authentic experience.



Progressive Flag

What it means: This flag is designed by a non-binary American Artist and is based on the original 1978 pride flag. The additional colors of pink, blue and white represent the transgender and non-binary community. The additional colors of brown and black represent those in the LGBTQIA+ community who face increased marginalization as they are also part of black and people of color communities. The black line also represents those living with AIDS, the stigma around AIDS and those who have been lost to the disease.



Progressive Flag

Why is it at camp: Sherbrooke Lake Camp is a part of the United Church of Canada. We are an affirming camp that seeks to create a camping environment for all campers to feel safe - **INCLUSIVE** of their gender, orientation and sexuality.

We now have gender inclusive cabins and work to be a better place for all folks to play, grow and work.



Every Child Matters Flag

What it Means: Every Child Matters is the slogan for Orange Shirt Day. The slogan means that every child in Indigenous communities matter: those who went to residential schools, those who didn't make it home, those who are now adults who live with the trauma that happened there and those still facing the discrimination that happens on Turtle Island. Orange Shirt Day is September 30th and opens the conversations about residential schools and the truth and reconciliation that still needs to happen.



Every Child Matters Flag

Why is it at camp: Sherbrooke Lake Camp is on Mi'kma'ki, the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw people. This land was not given up, but taken from them. We are a camp where children come to play, learn and discover. We fly this flag to honour the children and families who were victims of residential schools. We commit to remember them and never forget them as we use this land, the traditions, crafts and stories of those before us.



African Nova Scotian Flag

What it Means: In 2012, Halifax born Artist and Educator Wendie L. Wilson created a flag to represent African Nova Scotians.

Red to symbolize the sacrifice African Nova Scotians have endured, gold for cultural richness and green for fertility, growth and the future generations.

The middle symbol is Wilson's reflection of the African Adinkra symbol "Sankofa" which represents the resilience of the people to build on lessons of the past in order to create a future. Wilson's reflection of this also includes a wave which symbolizes the ocean and their ancestor's journey to NS and the water. Finally, the unfinished circle represents heartbreak and awareness, both in equal measure.



African Nova Scotian Flag

Why is it at camp: Sherbrooke Lake Camp is home to many campers far and wide. African Nova Scotians began settlements in 1783 and boast to be the largest indigenous Black community in Canada. There are 52 historic Black settled communities in Nova Scotia. We recognize the vibrant and tragic history of African Nova Scotian's and the influence of the culture on many activities, crafts and traditions at camp. We fly this flag to honour the families, the children, the community and the culture.



Disability Pride Flag

What it Means: Quote: "The flag was created to encompass all disabilities and was designed by Ann Magill member of the disability community. The black background represents the suffering of the disability community from violence and also serves as a color of rebellion and protest. The lightning bolt represents how individuals with disabilities must navigate barriers, and demonstrates their creativity in doing so. The five colors represent the variety of needs and experiences: Mental Illness, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Invisible and Undiagnosed Disabilities, Physical Disabilities, and Sensory Disabilities."



Disability Pride Flag

What is it at camp: Sherbrooke Lake Camp hosts campers with a variety of disabilities. We recognize that we are not a completely accessible camp for all and we are working on how to increase our accessibility as we change and grow. Each camper brings a unique experience and we want to help them celebrate what makes them THEM. This includes any disabilities that they may have that impacts how they play, connect, grow and live. We fly this flag to show our commitment to supporting campers of all kinds in coming to camp and being part of our community.



Nova Scotia Flag

What it Means: Nova Scotia, latin for "New Scotland" is the second smallest province in Canada. The flag was first used in 1858 but only recognized in legislation as Nova Scotia's flag in 2013.

The background of the flag is the reverse of Scotland's flag with the Royal Arms of Scotland at the middle.



Nova Scotia Flag

Why is it at camp: Sherbrooke Lake Camp resides in Nova Scotia. This flag represents the Province from which many of our campers come, though some come from much farther away each summer. We fly this flag to honour the province, the unity it brings and hope for community as we grow in peace and friendship with all our relations.



Refugee Nation Flag

What it Means: "This flag was designed by the artist Yara Said, a Syrian refugee who found asylum in Amsterdam.

'Black and orange is a symbol of solidarity with all these brave souls that had to wear life-vests to cross the sea to look for safety in a new country.'"

Since creation for the 2016 Olympics, this flag has been represented numerous teams in sports, hung in museums and even present at the Oscars.



Refugee Nation Flag

Why is it at camp: Sherbrooke Lake Camp is a place for campers of all backgrounds to explore nature, spark friendship, discover camping and have fun. We recognize that many new Nova Scotian's may experience adversity and hardship in their journey to camp. We fly this flag to acknowledge that journey and welcome those to camp as a safe place to explore, spark, discover and play.



Mi'kmaq Grand Council Flag

What it Means: Mi'kmaq elder Daniel Paul notes that this flag was first raised in Kjipuktuk (Halifax, Nova Scotia) in 1901. The wapéék (white) represents the purity of creation. The mekwéék klujjewey (red cross) represents mankind and infinity (four directions). The náákúúset (sun) represents the forces of the day and the tepkunaset (moon) represent the forces of the moon.



Mi'kmaq Grand Council Flag

What is it at camp: Sherbrooke Lake Camp is on Mi'kma'ki, the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw people. This land was not given up, but taken from them. We are a camp where children come to play, learn and discover. We fly this flag to honour the Mi'kmaw people, their history, their culture and their children. We commit to honour them as we use this land, the traditions, crafts and stories that many camps like ours have learned from Indigenous peoples.



Acadian Flag

What it Means: Adopted in 1884, this flag reflects the French flag with the addition of the star in the top left corner.

The gold star, represents the “Stella Maris” (Star of the Sea). This asks for the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary and also reflects the hope and guiding light for the future.

"This is the emblem that represents the Acadian heritage, ancestors and the original lands of Acadia, established in Canada in the mid 1600's. The red section serves to remind us of the suffering and hardships of the past; the white section denotes purity of spirit and the peace of the present; and the blue section represents harmony with the sea and the sky"



Acadian Flag

Why is it at camp: Sherbrooke Lake Camp hosts campers from all across Nova Scotia and beyond. The Acadian population in Nova Scotia changed drastically due to expulsions by the British in the mid to late 1700's which has impacted the heritage and lineage of Acadians today. The Acadians are one of the few settled groups that forged friendships with M'ikmaw people rather than attempts at displacement.

We fly this flag to remember the hardships of the Acadian people, honour the friendship made between the two peoples and empower the campers whose lineages, culture and language are reflected in this story.



Gaelic Flag

What it Means: Created in 2008, this flag serves to honour the Gaelic community in Nova Scotia. "The salmon represents the gift of knowledge in the Gaelic storytelling traditions of Nova Scotia, Scotland and Ireland and the Isle of Man. The "G" represents the Gaelic language and the ripples are the manifestations of the language through its rich culture of song, story, music, dance and custom and belief system."



Gaelic Flag

Why is it at camp: In 1773, the first ships that carried Gaelic settlers touched Nova Scotia. These people were fleeing the Fuadach nan Gàidheal ("The eviction of the Gaels" now known as the Highland Clearances) where their language, culture, clans and way of life were being banned by the British. Many traditions, crafts, songs and much more at camp have been adopted from this culture and these people. We fly this flag to honour the experience of the Gaelic settlers, the adversity they faced and the campers whose lineages, culture and language are reflected in this story.



Resources

<https://www.native-art-in-canada.com/turtleisland.html>

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/the-progress-pride-flag>

<https://www.csfs.org/news/246/66/What-Every-Child-Matters-Means-and-Where-to-Buy-an-Orange-Shirt>

<https://www.orangeshirtday.org/about-us.html>

<https://www.hdbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/A-Message-from-ALI-ANS-Flag-FINAL-1.pdf>

<https://bccns.com/our-history/>



Resources

<https://www.afb.org/blog/entry/celebrating-disability-pride-month#:~:text=The%20flag%20has%20a%20black,unique%20about%20the%20disability%20community.>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/provincial-territorial-symbols-canada/nova-scotia.html>

<http://www.therefugeenation.com/>

<https://designmuseum.org/exhibitions/beazley-designs-of-the-year/graphics-20xx/the-refugee-nation-flag>



Resources

[http://www.danielnpaul.com/Mi'kmaqFlags.html#:~:text=The%20M%C3%ADkmaq%20National%20Flag%20has,was%20crucified%20on%20the%20Cross.&text=SA%20%2D%20means%20Saint%20Anne%20\(Patron,of%20the%20M%C3%AD%C3%ADkmaq%20since%201730\).](http://www.danielnpaul.com/Mi'kmaqFlags.html#:~:text=The%20M%C3%ADkmaq%20National%20Flag%20has,was%20crucified%20on%20the%20Cross.&text=SA%20%2D%20means%20Saint%20Anne%20(Patron,of%20the%20M%C3%AD%C3%ADkmaq%20since%201730).)

<https://www.acadian.org/history/flags/the-acadian-flag/>

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/acadian-expulsion-plain-language-summary>

<http://www.danielnpaul.com/AcadianMi'kmaqContactsOutlawed.html>



Resources

<https://gaelic.co/gaelic-flag/>

<https://gaeliccollege.edu/about/gaelic-culture/>

This resource was created by JLawrence BScN RN CPedN C, 2022

